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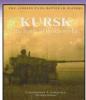


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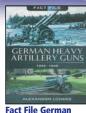
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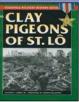


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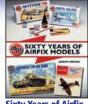
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Key to Scales used in MMI 1/6 = 300mm 1/10 = 200mm 1/48 = 36mm 1/16 = 120mm 1/72 = 25-28mm 1/18 = 90mm 1/76 = 24mm 1/24 = 70-75mm 1/32 = 54mm MMI = no scale, reference articles, Industry news

Military Modelcraft International

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An in-depth look at some of the latest releases

Takom 1/35 David Grummitt

n exciting raft of releases this month from Takom, who continue to produce new kits at a frightening pace. The highlight is new moulds for the AMX-13 Light Tank, one of the most innovative and interesting AFVs of the post-War period. Takom have released three new kits of this vehicle: AMX-13/75 (ref. 2036), AMX-13/90 (ref. 2037) and AMX-13/75

w/SS-11 ATGM (ref. 2038). We'll be looking at these in more detail once we have our hands on them, so watch this space. Also from Takom we have the MP9 ACE (ref. 2020) and, something very different, the Krupp 420mm Big Bertha (ref. 2035). Our thanks to Takom's UK importer, Pocketbond (www.pocketbond.co.uk), for the information.











Trumpeter David Grummitt

f Takom are prolific in their new releases, then Trumpeter are positively frenetic. This month sees three new releases, all very different, and testimony to the ambition and output of the Chinese manufacturer. The Ex-Soviet 2P19 Launcher w/R-17 Missile (SS-1C SCUD B) 8K14 Missile System Complex (ref. 01024) looks a beast of kit and this early SCUD missile delivery system will look very impressive assembled, painted and weathered. The Russian URAL-375D (ref. 01027) is a more understated but no less important release, while the Soviet JS-

1 Heavy Tank (ref. 05587) fills an important gap for fans of World War II Soviet armour. Trumpeter's quest to kit out the entirety of the Red Army's arsenal continues with the release of Soviet MT-LB (ref. 05578) and BRDM-1 (ref. 05596), while the 1/6-scale PLA Type 63 107mm Rocket Launcher (ref. 01920) is an interesting and unusual release. Again, our thanks to Trumpeter's UK importer, Pocketbond (www.pocketbond.co.uk), for the information.













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An in-depth look at some of the latest releases

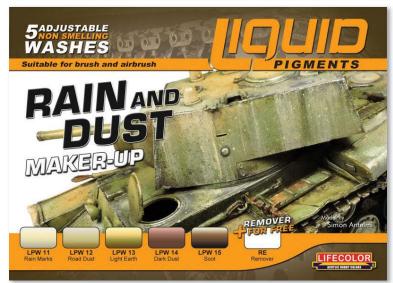
LifeColor David Grummitt



that modellers now face a bewildering choice of paints, pigments, washes and other specialist products to finish their models and hopefully achieve the effects seen in the pages of this and other magazines. If you're a newcomer to the hobby, or simply an old hand wanting to try some new techniques, the choice can be a little daunting. Basically, however, if we accept that almost every modeller now uses acrylic (waterbased) paints to apply the base colours of their models, the choice comes down to either acrylic (water-based) washes and pigments or oil/enamelbased ones. One of the main advantages with the former, of course, is that they can be cleaned up with water and, generally speaking, eliminate the use of foul-smelling and potentially dangerous solvents, something not to be sneezed at by all of us who are still 'kitchen-table' modellers.

Italian-firm LifeColor produce a large range of acrylic paints that can be applied by either brush or airbrush and also have an increasingly wide range of weathering products. Their 'Liquid Pigments' range replicate the more conventional oil and enamel-based washes and filters using odour-free acrylic solutions that can be applied and removed completely if you're not happy with the result using their own 'Remover' solution. Their UK distributor, the Airbrush Company, have recently sent us three sets that enable modellers to weather their masterpieces with conventional pin washes, rust effects and rain and dust marks. Detail Emphasizer: Tanks & Vehicles (ref. LP01) is a set of five dark pigments and a jar of Remover suitable for pin washes and other washes to pick out detail. Rust Wizard (ref. LP02) contains five different rust shades and Remover, while Rain and Dust Makeup (ref. LP03) contains four dust and rain mark colours, Soot and Remover. The ability to completely remove these washes without leaving a trace or tidemark sounds very appealing and they are certainly a viable alternative to the more widely used enamelbased washes and filters commonly used to achieve these effects. Our thanks to the Airbrush Company (www.airbrushes.com) for the review samples, check out their website for details of the full LifeColor range.







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An in-depth look at some of the latest releases

London Plastic Modellers' Show

unday 7th December saw the third London Plastic Modellers' Show at the Islington Business Design Centre. The show was an efficiently run event incorporating club displays, traders, demonstrations and an open competition and was a very welcome return of such an event to the centre of London. The venue is excellent, well appointed, and very well connected for public transport with Angel tube station less than five minutes walk away.

The competition standard was as high as ever with congratulations in particular to Mr Konstantine Malinovsky for winning best of show with a 1/72 AFV. Beyond the scope and competence of this writer, but even diehard aircraft modellers could recognise the quality of the workmanship.

Thanks to all the clubs and traders who took part. It was a great day out and we look forward to the next one.

Gold winners were as follows:

- 1) Aircraft 1/48 and larger the winner was Carl Pratley
- 2) Aircraft smaller than 1/48 the winner was Colin Pickett
- 3) Military Vehicles 1/35 and larger the winner was Annabel Eagle
- 4) Military Vehicles smaller than 1/35 the winner was Konstantine Malinovski
- 5) Dioramas the winner was James Schembri
- 6) Figures and Busts the winner was Eric Sanger
- 7) Miscellaneous (ships, cars, civilian and Sci-fi the winner was James Schembri
- 8) Junior, Models all types and scale Arthur Forster-Toy



Yes it's tiny! The quality of the paint finish and exquisite detail on this 1/72 AFV won gold in its class and Best in Show



This beautifully painted Trumpeter Hurricane won gold for larger scale aircraft.



Placed by the judges by virtue of the beautifully painted textiles, this 54mm Cavalier was exquisite..



Mr Konstantine Malinovsky accepts a well deserved trophy from the editor, David Grummit. Mr Malinovsky won prizes for both armour and aircraft in the smaller scale categories.



This strange 1/72 Avrocar may have looked like a sci-fi model but it won gold for Mr Colin 'Flying' Pickett in the smaller aircraft category..



A 1/32-scale Matchbox Lysander: the understated external finish and nicely fitted out interior won it silver in the larger scale aircraft category.

An in-depth look at some of the latest releases

Stephen Pile



Trumpeter's M1132 in 1/35. This engineer's vehicle was equipped with interior lighting that showed off the extent of the work carried out by the modeller. Another well-deserved gold medal.



Silver in the Juniors section. Some of the best mud you could hope to find and some nicely flattened crops – sugar beet? – trampled underfoot by the gun crew. A nicely conceived and well-executed diorama.



The winner of the Junior class, Arthur Forster-Toy, receives his prize.



An in-depth look at some of the latest releases

Sparmax Gary Hatcher

t has always been my policy to promote the use of airbrushes: not in opposition to brush painting, which is a medium many use to achieve the highest standards of finishing, but as an extension of modelling skills - an additional tool that can achieve results and finishes that are simply not possible with a brush because that is not what they were designed to do. Sensitive souls frequently take umbrage erroneously perceiving this as an attack on their chosen medium but having many times attempted to change a plug with a kitchen knife instead of a screwdriver I maintain it is simply a matter of using the right tool for the right job. Another argument I hear often is that 'I can't afford it'. This frequently comes from modellers with a dozen unbuilt HK kits in the loft, and is even less relevant now that so many good tools are available at reasonable prices. Enter Sparmax... UK dealer The Airbrush Company has passed on a wonderful set of equipment for review that offers affordability with a good quality product, ease of use and an excellent warranty and support package. Airbrushing just got even easier.

First, we have the **Sparmax ARISM Mini Compressor (ref. C-AR-MINI)**. Introducing a new generation of compressors with more power in smaller units, the Sparmax ARISM Mini is a powerful and compact compressor designed for workbench applications whilst saving the user space. As a smaller unit, it is also designed to be highly portable, and is an ideal choice for those 'modular' modellers lacking a permanent workspace who need to pack things away frequently or at short notice. In fact it takes up little more space than a can of air and needs only a mains socket to be up and running. In keeping with its compact nature, the ARISM Mini also has a built-in airbrush holder on its handle. This is the quintessential compact compressor for all ages and experience levels, and is available in eight colour options. Ours was 'Sky Blue' but the pink one is divine. Features include: low maintenance, oil-less single piston air

compressor; working pressure from 0 psi to 28 psi; 2M braided hose; pressure adjuster; handle with built in airbrush holder. It has an air flow of 12 - 14 lpm (0.42 - 0.49 cfm) at open flow **and a** 1/8 BSP outlet on the compressor. **It's vital statistics are** L17.5 x W9 x H18.2 cm (5.6" x 3.5" x 6.6"), weight: 2.5 kgs (5.5 lbs), voltage: 220-240V 50Hz, noise level: 49±dB, and a duty cycle of 30 minutes continuous use. The ARISM Mini comes with a one -year warranty and is compatible with

most brands of airbrush. At £95, it's a steal!

The Sparmax MAX-4 Airbrush with Pre-set Handle and Crown

Cap (ref. SP-MAX-4) is a dual-action airbrush but can be easily converted to single-action with the single-action Air Valve that is included. It also features a pre-set handle, which limits the colour flow to avoid over-shooting, and a Crown Cap allowing you to get closer to your work and thus achieve finer detail, whilst still protecting the needle.

Road testing these items found them user-friendly and very easy to set up and take down. Cleaning the Sparmax was painless and it was very similar to the Iwata I have been using in many respects.

Except the price! That is one of the wonderful things about this equipment. For £140 you can be up and running with a compact airbrushing set-up. Thanks to the Airbrush Company for the review samples. www.airbrushes.com



An in-depth look at some of the latest releases

Sparmax Gary Hatcher









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An in-depth look at some of the latest releases

Classy Hobby David Grummitt

new year and an early frontrunner for 'Kit of the Year' in the shape of a 1/16-scale Luchs from a new company, Classy Hobby of Hong Kong. Yes, you heard it right: a 1/16-scale full plastic kit of the Panzer II Ausf. L! The large box (measuring some 48cmx28cmx12cm) is very reminiscent of a Bronco kit, with some attractive box art and expanded CAD



drawings. The Panzerkampfwagen II Ausf. L'Luchs' (Sd.Kfz. 123) Light Reconnaissance Tank 9th Panzer Division (ref. MC16001) appears an impressive debut. The kit contains no fewer than 22 sprues of light grey plastic, a small etched fret, a clear sprue, brown individual plastic track links, and a bag of metal track pins. The first thing that strikes you about this kit is that it is big: the Luchs was a diminutive vehicle, but in 1/16 scale the lower hull is some 23cm in length, while the large dished roadwheels are each more than 4cm in diameter. In many ways the kit is reminiscent of the Tasca kit of a few years ago, but it's not merely a scaling up of its 1/35-scale counterpart. It has a limited interior (the engine cooling fans will be visible through the large photoetched grills), but doesn't have a driver's station, engine, transmission, but does have a passable turret interior. The exterior detailing is very good, with some nice tool clamps (in plastic and photoetch), nicely detailed jerry cans, and call-outs in the instructions that allow you to model precisely one of the three Pz.Aflk.Abt. 9 vehicles that saw action in Normandy in the summer of 1944. The moulding quality is generally very good, although there are one or two sink marks that will require attention, particularly on the road wheels, and a few traces of flash, especially in sprue G (containing the main armament, radio and stowage details). The single link tracks, with metal track pins, look good. The kit includes working torsion bar suspension, so it'll be possible to articulate the suspension to suit some suitable groundwork. The instructions are very clearly drawn (looking rather like a set of Tasca/Asuka instructions) and there is a nice colour sheet with marking and camouflage instructions. Overall, this is a very exciting release in a large scale that provides some fantastic painting and weathering option. First impressions are good, but the proof of the pudding, as they say, will, as ever, be in the building, and we'll hope to bring you a proper build review before too long. In the meantime we have some of the manufacturer's test shots to admire.







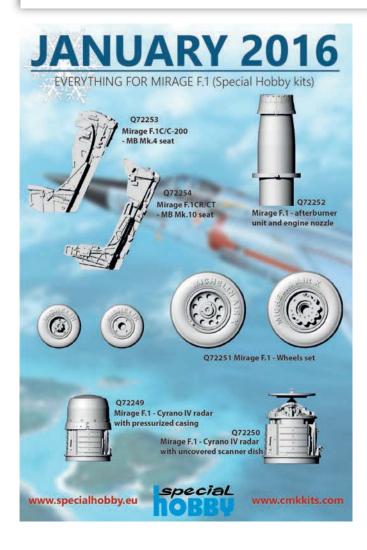
An in-depth look at some of the latest releases

Classy Hobby

David Grummitt



Also from Classy Hobby we have their second release, W.W.II **German 20L Jerry Can** & 200L Fuel Drum Set (MC16002). This is exactly what it says on the box, providing four drums and eight jerry cans. Its release promises more German armour in this scale, so watch this space. Our thanks to the Classy Hobby for the review samples. As yet there is no news of UK availability, but it's sure to be available from specialist model shops, probably by the time you read this review.









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available in UK: HANNANTS LTD and all good model shops

A round up of the latest releases



ACE Soviet FAI-M Armoured Car

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ACE
BTR-80 (early production series)

Scale:	1/72
Ref:	72171
SRP:	£14.99

See www.acemodel-com.ua



ACE
Super Snipe Lorry 8cwt
(FFW – Fitted for Radio)

Scale:	1/72
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Scale:	1/35
Ref:	F35145
SRP:	£TBA

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Black Dog Ukrainian Army Soldiers Set

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SRP:	£TBA

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SRP:



Bronco Models

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Ref:	CB35134
SRP:	£TBA

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1/35
35058
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SRP:	£TB/

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Scale:	1/35
Ref:	2029
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Toro Modei

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Ref:		48F41
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Scale:	1/35
Ref:	35022
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Ref:	35023
SRP:	€16.00

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W-Model

THAAD Launcher US Anti-Ballistic Missile System

Scale	:	1/72
Ref:		WB14
SRP:		£TBA
	See www.wmodelkits.co	om



W-Model 9S32 'Grill Pan' Fire Control

Radar - SA-23 Gladiator Scale:

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SRP:		£TBA
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SRP:	£12.99
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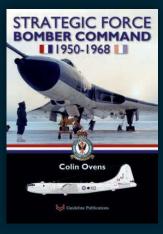


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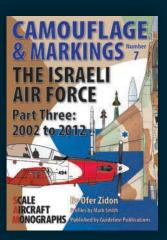
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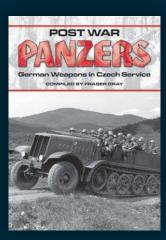
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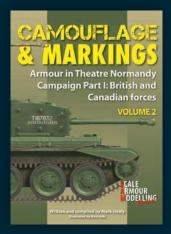


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MiniArt's MB1500A gets the treatment courtesy of Özgür Güner

















between the two are minimal (drivetrain, chassis and wheels). Both kits include some very useful extras. The L1500S is accompanied by a selection of items including barrels, milk churns and bottle crates. The L1500A (the version I have chosen) includes five figures loading fuel drums onto the

Labelled as 'MB
1500A 4x4 Cargo
Truck' (ref. 35150), the
375-part kit
includes two
frets of
photoetched
components,
and clear
parts for
the

windscreen, door windows and light lenses. True to form, the assembly instructions are clearly presented, and are accompanied by painting/marking schemes for three examples, together with appropriate decals.

Assembly

Construction began with the chassis and drivetrain. This was a fairly time-consuming operation, and used up most of the contents of the box (photo 1). The next task was to assemble the wheels. Since these required the addition of PE details to the hubs, it was important to work carefully and precisely when attaching these parts (photo 2). Once again, care was needed when assembling the separate engine. Given the level of detail here, I simply had to leave the engine compartment open on the completed model (photo **3).** With the lower part of the model complete, I temporarily attached the wheels to check for alignment before continuing to the next stage (photo 4).











I was now ready make a start on the cab section. Unfortunately, being a one-piece moulding, this suffers from a visible ejection-pin mark on the roof, and a prominent seam around the windscreen frame; both needed to be removed to achieve a perfectly smooth surface (photo 5). As with most soft-skin models, the interior would have to be fully painted and weathered at this early stage. Consequently, I needed to plan ahead to ensure that the interior colours were appropriate for the vehicle I was intending to depict. The box art shows a vehicle in a two-colour camouflage scheme (Italy, August 1944), but I opted for the dark grey scheme (Belorussia,

Spring

1944). With this in mind, I painted the interior with a selection of Vallejo acrylics before weathering the area (mainly using

oil colours) (photos 6 & 7). With the cab assembled, I attended to the cargo

bed, doors

and engine

compartment covers. I deliberately avoided adding some of the smaller items at this stage, for fear of damaging them along the way. A feature that I have not come across before, each door is made up several parts, with the window being sandwiched between an outer and inner panel. With careful gluing and assembly, this allows for the windows to be movable on the

> (photo 8). Once the windscreen, door windows and cab interior were masked, I primed the model with Revell 47 (Mouse Grey), and checked for any surface

> > errors before moving on to the base coat

completed model

Painting, Marking & Weathering

(photo 9).

The painting sequence began with the engine assembly, which was treated to Burnt Metal and Exhaust colours from













show a contrast between the hub

colour and the natural rubber

of the tyres. The solution



hairspray, and allowed this to dry before applying heavily diluted XF-63 (German Grey),

> was to use XF-63 for the hubs, and pick out the tyres with Vallejo's Panzer Aces 306 (Dark Rubber)

(photo 14).

Aware that

the

interior

cargo
bed. The
wooden
sections
were basepainted with a
suitable wood
colour (photo 12).

area to be dealt with was the

I then gave the area a couple of coats of

concentrating on the corners and framework. Once this coat was dry, I used a brush moistened with warm water to remove selected portions to suggest worn and chipped paintwork (photo 13).

When painting the wheels, I needed to

panels of the cab doors would have been unpainted wood, I avoided using the hairspray method. Instead, I applied a coat of Burnt Umber oil paint, and wiped away most of the paint to replicate a woodgrain finish (remembering, of course, to work in one direction). Further areas of the model were now masked, and the exterior given a final coat of XF-63 (photo 15). Once this was dry, appropriate decal markings were applied, and the entire model treated to a coat of Vallejo's Satin Varnish (photo 16).











appeared to be a good idea, I

impressed with this set (ref. 35041) when I used them in a

previous project. So, ignoring

various items of cargo, partially

covered with a tarpaulin made

(photo 20). These were then

brush-painted using Vallejo

the figures, I decided to add

from Tamiya Epoxy putty

acrylics (photo 21).

A Simple Setting

must admit that I was less than



Using a selection of oil paints, I began the weathering process by adding highlights and shading to the base colour. In some cases, these were blended with a dry brush; in others, they were diluted with white spirit before being applied (photo 17). Having allowed the oils 24-hours drying time, I added a series of pin-washes using MIG Productions' P220 (Dark Wash) and P221 (Brown Wash). With any excess removed, and the washes completely dry, I applied an overall coat of Vallejo's Matt Varnish



(photo 18). Once the various masks were removed, I painted the headlight interiors with Model Master's Chrome Silver (before attaching the clear lenses), and added a few areas of chipped paintwork around the vehicle (photo 19)



28 Military Modelcraft International









tonal variation using a selection of pigments (**photo 22**). Once the surface was dry, I cleaned the areas where the wheels would touch, and attached the base to a wooden plinth (**photo 23**).

Before finally attaching the vehicle to the base, I added further weathering to lower areas to match the terrain, fitted the doors and engine compartment covers, and mounted the photo-etched Mercedes badge (photo 25). All that remained was to fix the model in place with wood glue, and touch up the areas around the base of the tyres with pigments to tie everything together (photos 26 & 27).

Final Thoughts

This is one of MiniArt's older kits and comparing it with some of their more recent releases covered this month in NATF shows how far the Ukranian company has come in the last couple of years (the war in Eastern Ukraine notwithstanding). This is not an easy build, but there is nothing that a reasonably experienced modeller couldn't tackle. MiniArt are to be commended for consistently tackling subjects that other manufacturers don't touch and the combination of these kits, their large range of quality plastic figures and vac-formed dioramas mean that they are certainly one of the most exciting companies out there. Their MB1500A is a good kit of a very versatile subject and, as I hope you'll agree, it builds into a very fine little model.









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Maneuver Combat

Luciano Rodriguez comes bang up to date in Small-Scale

n tune with the growing recent interest in modern vehicles among modellers, Aoshima has released a new series of 1/72-

scale kits

dedicated to

the equipment

of the modern

Among these, I

Japanese Ground

Self Defense Forces.

decided to tackle one

of their latest releases -

the new eight-wheeled

engineering, ease of assembly and some crisp surface detail. The kit reproduces the actual prototype vehicle still under evaluation for the Japanese Ground Forces at the time of writing.

Assembly

The assembly is quite straightforward built from the box and it does not present any obvious challenges either for the beginner or the more

experienced modeller; truth be told, it leaves little room for real improvements. In the hull all the work by my side went into replacing some solid handles with plastic rod. One of the good points of the kit is that it includes clear parts for the front and rear lights, still I replaced the front ones with some clear lenses though for an even better appearance.

With the turret, aside the

With the turret, aside the replacement plastic rod grab handles, I simply

replaced the smoke launcher caps with plastic disks and I made new antenna mounts with styrene rod. I did this principally because it was easier than to cleaning up the tiny seams in the original parts without affecting the detail.

The turret rear plate brings the attachments for a stowage basket not yet reproduced in the kit. This is a common feature of modern tanks and AFVs in service in Japan, but is not yet apparent on the prototype. According to some reference images I decided to add a rear turret stowage basket made of styrene strip



Venicle

moment of writing I could not find an example of the standard (factory-installed) stowage basket and the available samples vary from one vehicle to another, the product of field additions depending on the evaluating unit.

Having a very smooth assembly so far I saved my energies to focus on the tyres, definitely the weakest point of the kit for me. Aoshima's tyres are not that terrible taking into consideration the complex shapes of the real tyre and one can live with them, but being an eight-wheeled vehicle, I decided to rework the thread pattern with small sections of styrene strip to produce a master to replicate in resin later. Needless to say the resulting part is not perfect but it looked

better than the unaltered kit tyres to my eyes at least!

One interesting feature of the Aoshima kit is that it provides steering front wheels. The system is very well designed and the first and second front wheels turn at different angles like the real thing. Actually the steering system on the real vehicle goes further and the body swings laterally when steering the wheels to simulate some side suspension inclination. The body movement is optional and I disabled it on my kit because the resulting effect was a bit too much for my taste. Notice the chassis parts are a bit too bulky to provide a solid base for the steering wheels assembly but fortunately the chassis is hidden under the body almost totally.



The underside of the MCV, showing the poseable wheels.



Note the plastic discs over the smoke dischargers, replacement antennae mount and the wire grab handles, all a big improvement over the kit parts.



The completed MCV awaiting paint.





The scratchbuilt turret basket was the most time consuming and necessary addition to the Aoshima kit.



The tread on the kit tyres was improved with some plastic card and replacement tyres were then cast in resin







Painting Step 1

I sprayed an overall coat of Tamiya JGSDF Brown. With any camouflage schemes it's always a good idea to start with the lighter shades is always recommended to ensure a good coverage.

Painting Step 2

The green camouflage strips are freehand airbrushed little by little. If

takes care little retouching is needed to complete the camouflage scheme. The use of JGSDF Olive Drab instead of a more traditional JGSDF Green is just a matter of taste as I simply preferred that darker shade this time. By the way, I also swapped the colours of the camouflage pattern showed in the instructions as that also happens at times with brand new JGSDF vehicles.

Some fading of these camouflage shades is applied by spraying German Grey and Wooden Deck Tan. The former is just to darken some panel lines, while the Wooden Deck Tan adds some light dust here and there in the areas that I will add more weathering to later.

Painting Step 4

I then painted some of the smaller

lights, exhaust panel, aerial mounts and tyres, with Vallejo acrylics and also applied the decals. For the decals I used some spare decals form a Type 90 Tank as I wanted to represent a fictitious operational vehicle and replaced the serial numbers of the prototype (99XXXX) for those of an operational vehicle (95XXXX).

Painting Step 5

The pin wash really pops out all the small details, showing the very nice











Painting Step 6

Aoshima kit.

Weathering is completed with acrylics and is mostly based in a combination of Light and Dark Mud over the areas formerly dusted up with the Wooden Deck Tan. After that, remaining details are added, including the aerials, rear basket stowage and .50cal machine gun. I didn't really do anything special or different in the painting process,

the same techniques and materials that I used in almost all of my models. It's nice to know that the same techniques used for 1/48, my preferred scale, can also be employed with Small-Scale models.

employing

Crewman

Once the painting was over I focused on the making of a single crewman. Although the helmet

worn by JGSDF crewmen is a little unusual, it was worth it as, in my humble opinion, the addition of a figure always lifts a model, giving it a sense of scale and purpose. In this case I made a figure from a combination of a little scratchbuilding and reworking plastic parts with quick-dry epoxy putty to represent some distinctive features of the combat uniform. Most of my efforts were hidden however once the figure was placed inside the commander's cupola.

JOSOF MANEUVER COMBAT VEHICLE (PROTO TYPE)

Availability

Aoshima 1/72 JGSDF Maneuver Combat Vehicle MCV Prototype

(ref. 01017) is available from good model shops.









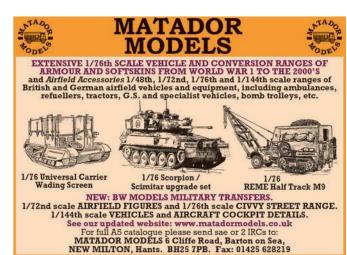












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A Cold and Frosty M

José Luis Lopez Ruiz takes Tamiya's Somua out of its comfort zone.







The Kit

During my visit to the Shizuoka Hobby Show, I made my way to the Tamiya stand, where I bought this absolute gem, 'Somua S35' (ref. 35344). True to form, assembling the kit was a real joy. With minimal refinements, the result would be a perfect replica of the vehicle. In fact, the only noticeable omission was a series of rivets around the driver's side vision-

port. I was particularly impressed by the individual-link tracks, as they required very little preparation before being simply clipped together.

Having decided to depict the S35 as a German vehicle, I little extras. Various scratchbuilt items were also added, including a rear stowage basket made from Evergreen profiles, and straps formed from thin

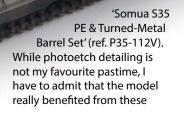
strips of Tamiya Epoxy Putty **(photo 1)**.

Painting the Beutepanzer

A new venture for me, I decided to experiment with the currently

popular 'Black & White' technique. Opting to use AMMO's products for this, I could see that these would be ideally suited to my particular needs. Of course, the first task was to treat the assembled model to a good coat of primer (photo 2).

Now using a mix of Tamiya 87116 (Pavement Effect) and 87120 (Powder Snow Effect) from their Texture Paint range, and a small quantity of



used

Blast Models'

conversion set (ref.

BL35227K). In addition, my

friend Asami Watanabe (MS

Models, Japan) supplied

me with Passion

Models'







Marmoline, I began to replicate the build-up of mud over the lower hull and running gear. Applying this with an old stiff brush, I added small amounts of water from time to time to make the mix more workable (photo 3).

Not particularly concerned with achieving the so-called 'zenithal light' effects (that is, using lighter and darker artificially the way light falls on the vehicle), I limited the B&W base application to a general pre-shading using a dark grey (similar to Panzer Grey) made from a mix of the Black and White found in the AMMO set. Once this was dry, I applied a layer of off-white, focusing on upper areas that would be less



affected by road dirt and dust (photos 4 & 5). To achieve a balance between the colours on the lower parts of the vehicle (generally dirtier) and upper areas (relatively clean), I applied a dark earth tone to replicate the mud colour over the lower hull and wheels. With this established, I would be able to select the appropriate washes and oil colours during

While some modellers go to great lengths when painting winter camouflaged vehicles, I prefer to concentrate my efforts on applying colours where they will eventually be seen. With this in mind, I considered where exactly the Panzer Grey colour would be exposed, and simply applied it to these areas. Comparing these two photos with the completed model should illustrate this idea (photos 7 & 8)











painting

a winter-

camouflaged vehicle (or any

model for that matter) is the

application of washes. Normally

avoiding black, I prefer instead

can be used both as a pin-wash

various shades of brown that

to accentuate raised details,

and as a general wash to give

an overall weathering to the

surfaces. Any excess is easily

moistened with thinners. The

only time that I actually use

shadow in deep recesses

(photos 13 & 14).

black here is for emphasising

Returning to the

removed using a brush







stowed tools and equipment, I refined the colours, constantly thinking how best to replicate the various materials (wood, leather, metal, etc). The straps on the side stowage bins were given an initial coat of black, followed by successive light coats of chocolate and orange to give the impression of worn leather. Recreating a suitable canvas colour was simply a case of applying various shades of field grey, and the spare track links were painted with colours from AMMO's Rust Set.



further paint chips. Once again, the surfaces were given a coat of satin varnish (photo 11).

Satisfied with the appearance so far, I applied a base colour to the various tools and accessories around the vehicle (photo 12). One of the most important steps when





(photo 15).

Now using heavily diluted acrylics, I worked on the dirt and mud effects. Having prepared various shades of brown, together with a colour close to black, I used my fine-pointed brush to apply subtle stokes over certain areas, along with more random splashes where appropriate. As with the previous washes, it was important to avoid using red in these mixes, as this colour would add warmth to the tone (conflicting with

scheme) (photos 16 & 17).

Finally, the wet effects were created by airbrushing satin varnish over the relevant areas, and further touches added using a brush. To offer more visual interest, I tinted the varnish with acrylic paint (colours used in my dirt and mud effects), and repeated the process over parts of the vehicle where dirt would naturally accumulate























Availability

Tamiya 1/35 Somua S35 (ref. 35344) is available from all good model shops.

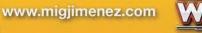
Passion Models 1/35 Somua S35 PE & Turned-Metal Barrel Set (ref. P35-112V), see www.passionmodels.jp.

Blast Models 1/35 Somua S35 Update Se (ref. BL35227K), see www.blast-models.com

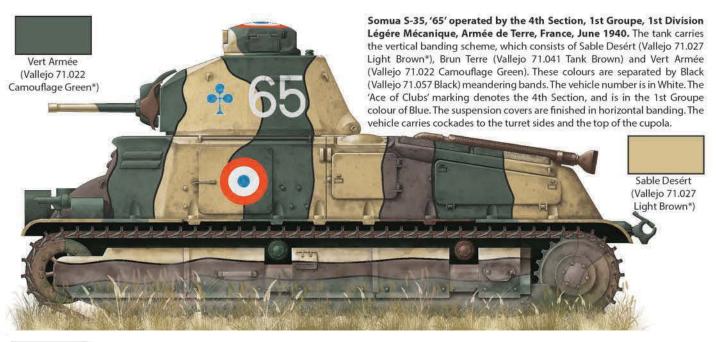
























By Gary Hatcher Photos: Gary Hatcher/John Birt

four page extra report this year on what was arguably the biggest and best Telford event ever. As usual the SIGs and branches pulled out all the stops and provided the meat of the show, with flair, imagination and an awful lot of very fine modelling, while the overseas section has grown to enormous proportions and has now become practically a show in its own right with many overseas branches awarding their own trophy in the competition.

As usual the competition was superb, and the new arrangement with the venue allowed a lot more space to spread out the exhibits. Judges were confronted with the usual difficulties over how to pick the best of the best and our own Scale Aircraft Modelling and Alan Hall trophies were particularly well deserved.

And of coursed the industry was present in abundance with plenty of things to buy, plenty of exciting new releases, and enough excitement to keep us going through the next year















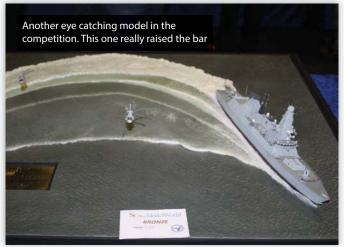










































A selection of the some of the armour models seen on the competition table and the various club stands.

Panzara in Nunduz

Pascal Bausset presents Meng Model's Pz 2000 as an ISAF vehicle.

he Panzerhaubitze 2000

(Armoured Howitzer 2000) is a 155mm self-propelled howitzer developed by Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) and Rheinmetall for the German Army. Having received a contract in 1996 for production of 185 units, KMW handed over the first vehicle two years later. Delivery of the initial batch is now complete. The PzH 2000 is one of the most powerful conventional artillery systems, and is particularly noted for its high rate of fire. In burst mode it can dispatch three rounds in nine seconds. Depending on barrel length, it can fire between ten and thirteen rounds per minute continuously. Such is its also been selected by the armies of Italy, Netherlands,

Croatia. More orders are expected as many NATO forces replace their M109 howitzers.

Following an escalation of the conflict in Afghanistan in April 2010, the decision was made

to improve the combat capability of German ISAF forces, which included the deployment of three PzH 2000s. Upon arrival via air transport, the vehicles received a new camouflage using non-permanent paints (a two-colour scheme of light olive green and sand beige). The guns were deployed to Kunduz on heavy tank transporters, and new emplacements were created in the 'Feldlager Kunduz' and 'Op North' bases using Hesco bastions for protection.

The Kit

The starting point for this project was Meng Model's 'Panzerhaubitze 2000 w/Addon Armor' (ref. TS-019). Released last year, this is a logical follow-on from their 2014 kit of the standard PzH 2000. The kit is typical of Meng's high-quality moulding and

attention to
detail. There are,
however, certain areas that
would benefit from
improvement. With this in
mind, I decided to use
Voyager's PE Detail set (ref.
35784), together with various
scratch-built items. Returning
to the base kit, what do we
actually find in the box? Inside
you'll discover:

- Nine sand-coloured sprues for the main assembly
- Two black sprues: one holding spare track links, and a jig for the main track assembly; the other for the add-on armour panels
- · Individual-link tracks
- · Two photoetch frets
- · A turned-metal gun barrel
- A well presented assembly instructions, with painting/marking schemes for four vehicles





The track components: Meng have included a really useful jig, which really helped when aligning the individual links.



The tracks were assembled without the need for glue. Since the upper section would be hidden by the side panels, it was only necessary to extend the tracks beyond the first and last return-rollers.



Turret sub-assemblies before detailing: the kit includes optional muzzle brakes; with or without a dust cover. .



A close-up of the running gear rear parts, prior to adding further weathering effects.





The lower hull, suspension and wheels fully painted and weathered.



The before and after appearance of the tracks: top — painted with matt black; bottom — weathered with a layer of sand-coloured pigment.



A close-up of the gun mantlet: the chains attached to the smoke grenade dischargers were taken from the Voyager set.

Assembly

Before making a start, I needed to decide which version I would be depicting. In fact I opted for version 'A', a German vehicle in two-colour camouflage.

Stages 1 – 8

Construction began with the lower hull and running gear. As with other Meng kits, the suspension is fully articulated. This feature is perfect for those who wish to present the finished model on uneven terrain. However, as I planned to set it on a relatively flat surface, I decided to permanently glue the suspension arms once I had

checked for alignment. In stage 6, I chose not to fit the cable brackets (parts X5) and rear access steps (parts E4 & E5); these are fragile components, and I was keen to avoid damaging them while handling the model. In fact, the Voyager set

offers more realistic versions of these items, but they are really difficult to assemble. Not happy with the moulding of the handle on the rear hull door, I removed this, and replaced it with plastic strip (using reference photos to check the exact shape).

Stages 9 – 13

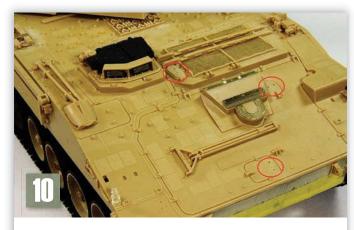
Parts X1 & X2 represent the foldable warning plates. When lowered, these display red/white stripes; when folded (for off-road situations), they match the vehicle's base colour. In stage 10, no reference is made to part D28 (see photo 13). For the up-armoured version, this part needs to be modified to extend beyond the armour tile. Similarly, stage 11 fails to include the lights. I decided to attach these during the later painting stages. The travel lock could be added at this point. This item is movable, so care was required during subsequent assembly and painting. I also added hydraulic and electrical lines



A further close-up of the turret front details.



A close-up of the hull front, showing the photoetched air intake screen.



Note the holes drilled for metal grab handles and the good representation of the anti-slip surfaces.

Modified part D28

A close-up of modified part D28 (as described in text).

using lengths of fuse wire. Moving on to the hull sides, I decided to use the plastic versions of the barrel cleaning rods, being careful when cleaning up these items.

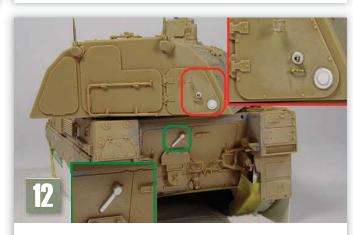
Stages 14 - 18

Time now to assemble and fit the tracks. Each link is made up three parts, which require a fair amount of preparation before fitting together. The links are securely connected without the need for glue, and the kit includes a very useful assembly jig. Since the upper section would be hidden by the side panels, it was only necessary to extend the tracks beyond the first and last return-rollers. Once the tracks were in place, I painted and weathered the lower hull, suspension and wheels. Not particularly impressed by the kitsupplied towing cable, I

replaced this with a metal version (compliments of Karaya). Although stage 18 suggests attaching the hull addon armour, I delayed fitting the tiles until the camouflage painting was complete.

Stages 19 & 20

This sequence deals with the main gun and mantlet. Having three sub-assemblies (gun barrel, gun base/turret articulation, and mantlet), I left these unattached until the painting and weathering were almost finished. The V° measuring system, mounted on top of the gun base (parts F4, F5 & F14) was further detailed with various electrical cables (again based on reference photos). The smoke grenade dischargers were detailed with tiny chains included in the Voyager set. I added a touch of Micro Mask liquid to the turret's side windows to protect them during the painting stage.



The rear hull and turret improvements.

Stage 21 – 25

Having painted the armour tiles, I put these to one side for later fitting. The next task was to remove all the moulded-on handles and attachment points around the model, and replace them with Voyager's PE parts and scratchbuilt items. Although a fairly tedious operation, the result was certainly worth the effort. I modified the lower right-hand corner of the rear turret wall using my reference photos. This included adding a small tube on the right-hand door (designed to protect the computer system), a grab

handle and a circular plate. I omitted the warning light, and simply attached the support bracket. The antenna bases were replaced by turned-brass versions from the Voyager



The basic assembly of the kit complete, ready for the paint job.



With various items removed, and the lower hull masked, the model was ready to receive a coat of primer.



With the sand base-coat applied, Intelligent Panzer Putty was used to mask relevant areas in preparation for the second colour.



Applying the Panzer Putty mask. I found this material easy to apply. It is perfectly suited to both softedged and (as here) hard-edged camouflage schemes.



The masks removed and the paint scheme revealed. It's looks pretty stark at this stage.

Before attaching the stowage basket to the turret front, it was important to identify which of the two provided would be correct for the German vehicle (the other is for the Dutch version). Once in place, it was fitted with attachment points from the Voyager set, along with stowage securing straps made from metal foil.

Painting, Marking & Weathering

Having applied a coat of Vallejo 74.613 (Surface Primer -Desert Tan), I gave some thought as to the best paints to use for the two camouflage colours. Eventually I opted for AK Interactive's AK728 (German Sand Beige) and AK716 (Resedagrün). While these two colours would be sufficient for the majority of the surfaces, I decided to show heavily chipped paintwork over the lower front plate. To achieve this, I gave this area an initial

coat of NATO Green, and followed with a layer of hairspray. Once the sand colour had been applied overall, selected portions on the front plate could be scraped to reveal the underlying green. With the base coat fully dry, the next task was to prepare the model for the second colour. A masking medium that I have just come across is Intelligent Panzer Putty (ref. MXA001) from MXpression. I found this really easy to use, and in no time at all I had masked the main areas.

Before applying the camouflage green colour, I lightened it with a small amount of white. This was left to dry

in preparation for decal markings to be added. Incidentally, tools and other stowed equipment were over-painted



 $\label{eq:painting_potential} \textbf{Painting the gun barrel: top-Panzer Putty in place; bottom-the finished result.}$



Here you can see the camouflage painting complete. Note the heavily chipped paintwork on the lower front plate.





And there you have it: the basic painting and marking stages complete.

A rear view of the painted model, now onto the weathering.

with the camouflage colours when the vehicles arrived in Afghanistan.

The kit-supplied decals are excellent, and adhered well to all surfaces. The only omission is the large letter (E, F or G) that appears on the turret rear of these vehicles. The simple solution was to airbrush the letter using a PE mask. With an overall coat of matt varnish applied, I was ready to make a start on the weathering. Rather than using a wide range of weathering products, I settled for a series of oil paint washes (Natural Umber and other shades of brown), and a light dry-brushing of the base colour to emphasise raised details.

Setting the Scene

The inspiration for my simple scene was a selection of photos of the PzH2000 in a firing position in Kunduz. The base was formed from a piece of cardboard,

and covered with a thin layer of Sable Texture Paint (ref. FX009) from the French company, Prince August FX Effects. The Hesco gabions were from various resin sets produced by Pro Art Models, and were fixed in place using PVA white glue. Once these were secure, I applied fine gravel around their bases, and repeated this over the top of the gabions to improve the texture.

The completed base was airbrushed with various mixes of Tamiya's sand and white paints. Once dry, the barricade was dry-brushed to redefine the wire framework and gravel

> texture. The finishing touch was to place a plastic barrel in the corner: painted blue, and weathered with a wash and pigments, this would add a new colour to the

> > scene.



 $Bringing\ it\ together\ at\ this\ stage,\ the\ model\ looks\ very\ good\ and\ the\ stark\ camouflage\ scheme\ has$ alredy been toned down by the various other elements.

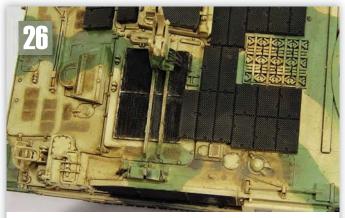


Weathering begins with the turret. A light dry brush really brings out the detail of the turret armour tiles.





I used oil paint to replicate the distinctive rain and condensation marks down the turret sides.



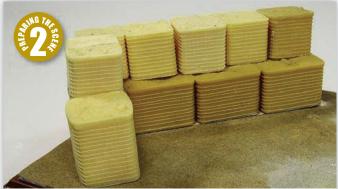
The masks removed and the paint scheme revealed. It's looks pretty stark at this stage.



Painting the gun barrel: top — Panzer Putty in place; bottom — the finished result.



The images available on the Internet and supplied by Patrick show the PzH2000 operating in some carefully prepared fire positions so I decided to show off my model in the same setting.



The base was made from a piece of cardboard covered with a layer of Sable Texture Paint (from Prince August FX Effects), and the Hesco gabions were from Pro Art Models. Building a card structure at the rear prevented me from having to add these resin items where they would not be seen. The gabions were fixed in place with PVA white glue.



Having added fine gravel around and on top of the gabions, I airbrushed the entire scene with various mixes of sand and white, and treated the barricade to a dark oil-paint wash.



A light dry brushing enhanced the detail on the metal framework and gravel texture.



The final addition — a plastic barrel, painted blue to introduce a new colour to the scene.

In addition to various Internet photos, a useful reference source is Panzerhaubitze 2000 A1/A2by Carl Schulze (Tankograd Fast Track 14). Here are several photos of the PzH 2000 in Afghanistan.

These were taken by my friend Patrick Winnepenninckx in 2011, shortly before the vehicles left Afghanistan.



























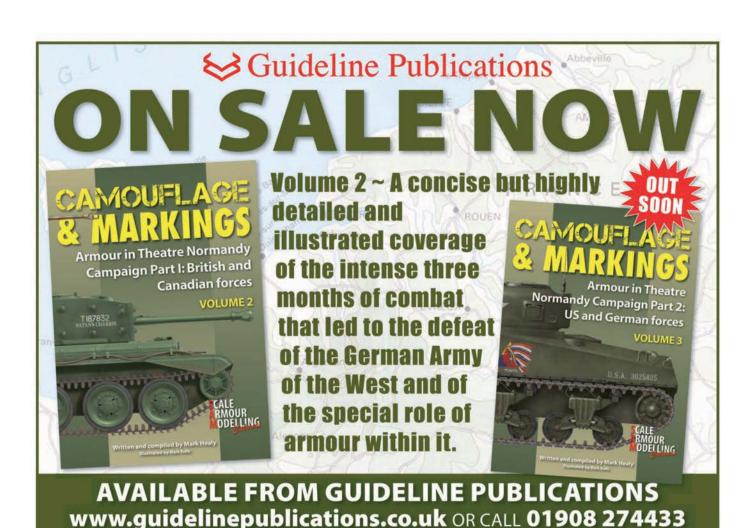


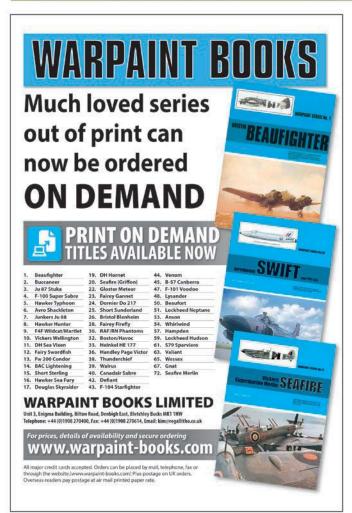




Availability

Meng Model 1/35 Panzerhaubitze 2000 w/Add-on Armor' (ref. TS-019) is available from good model shops.









1-703-594-7934

shop@olimodels.com

www.olimodels.com

Mike Sicilia presents a dynamic Normandy diorama.

he Kübelwagen was one of the most widely used military vehicles employed by the German army during World War II. The Kübelwagen originated in a project of Ing. Ferdinand Porsche who before the war had the task of designing a light and economic car called 'the people's car' or Volkswagen. From this project in the following years it was decided to develop a car for military use. The resulting Type 82 had a rear, air-cooled 985cc engine, two-wheel drive, a good off-road performance and could reach a top speed of 80 km/h. Thanks to its a lightweight chassis and bodywork, it was also simple to build. Between 1940 and 1945 more than 50,000 units were built, and improvements during production, perhaps the

most important of which in March 1943 was an engine upgrade to 1,131cc, kept

the

Kübelwagen a ubiquitous part of the Whermacht's inventory to the end of the War. The aircooled engine kept this small car going from the cold of the Russian front to the scorching heat of Africa.

Construction

Tamiya's Kublewagen kit is very well known to modellers because it is has neen available for several years, representing excellent value for money. The build is simple with fine details out of the box, but you can

> decide to enhance or add detail to the kit easily.

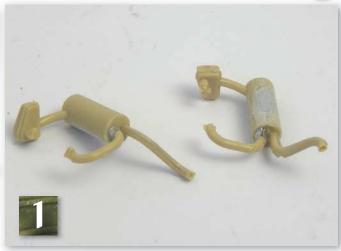
opted for the addition of the Eduard's photoetched detail set (ref. 35355). The set is a good compromise for those who wish to add detail but struggle with photoetch: it has all the parts you need to enhance the kit's appearance but is mercifully easy to use. Armed with the two instruction sheets (Tamiya and Eduard), I began assembly. I improved the detail of exhausts reconstructing the missing welds, drilling the out the ends and replacing the unrealistic support (photo 1). Then I added the wooden boards on the Kübel's floor from Eduard's set, after having sanded them to facilitate the subsequent painting (photos 2 & 3). I added the straps to the

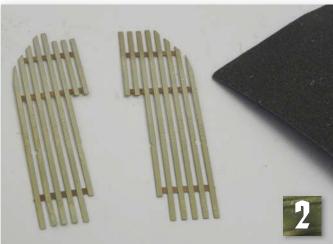
> detail of the bonnet (photo 4).

fuel tank and improved the

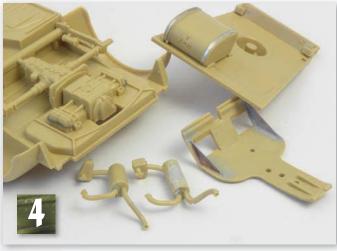
"Jabo, küss mein Arsch !" Normandy, summer 1944









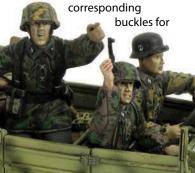












kit, also rebuilding the



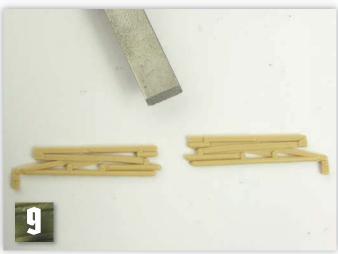
decided to rework the springs and backrest altering the plastic parts with a sharp knife (photo 5). Using the Eduard set I rebuilt the instrument panel (photo 6), and improved some more details, such as door handles, the paddle support, the clasps for the crew's personal weapons, direction indicators and the windscreen wipers (photo 7) In addition, with two-part epoxy putty from Andrea Miniatures, I modified

keeping it folded (photos 8 & 9). During the various assembly steps I painted all the areas in shadow and those that would be difficult to reach later black with the airbrush and the base colour (photo 10). Finally, with copper wire I reproduced all the various electrical wiring for the lights, horn and wipers. Now, with that done, the model was ready for paint.

The completed Kübelwagen

and crew ready to be placed

in a scenic setting.







TOBAL TANK MODEL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

Painting

I didn't assemble the model completely at this stage, but left it in various sub assemblies to assist in painting. As the first step I preshaded the exterior with Vallejo Black to give volume to the model (**photo 11**). Then I applied the basic Dunkelgelb use the Vallejo

71081, which I find an excellent match for the wartime shade, lightened where appropriate with Vallejo White to give a few highlights. I purposely let the base colour get very light as I knew on a small model like this the effect of the camouflage and subsequent weathering stages would be to darken the overall

appearance of the model

considerably. This Dunkelgelb

coat was heavily thinned and

applied in layers so as not to

(photo 12) The wheels were

painted with Gunze H77 and

cover the previous preshading

the base colour of Kübel. I painted the rims and kept them neat with the help of a stencil. Thankfully, the Eduard set has special masks for this step. I deliberately painted two of the rims a different colour as if they came from another vehicle. (photo 13). I had in mind for this vehicle a spidery camouflage pattern of Olive Green over the Dark Yellow base. I applied this with Tamiya's J.A. Green (XF-13) very diluted and sprayed with the airbrush at low pressure (1 atm) (photo 14).

With the exterior of the Kublewagen painted I turned my attention inside and painted the floorboards Vallejo 917 Biege and then painted a coat of Burnt Umber oil painting, removing the excess after a few minutes and reproducing the grain of the wood (photo 15). To give depth to the interior of the model I applied a pin wash to all the recesses, lining them with a mixture of with Vandyke Brown and Cassel Earth oil paints diluted in white spirit (photo 16).



















After a few minutes I removed the excess with a clean brush dampened with white spirit. For the seats I used a base of Vallejo acrylics (914 Green Ochre and 880 Khaki Grey), followed by an application of oil paints. I then removed the excess and completed the seats by shading them with Burnt Humber, while using Cassel Earth to I profile the springs (photo 17).

I applied the 'Hitlejugend' divisional symbol with a metal stencil and sprayed Vallejo White through the airbrush (photo 18). The rear canvas tilt received a similar treatment to the seats, using the Vallejo colours as a base and oil colors to shade and highlight it (photo 19). For the external body of vehicle, as for the interior, I outlined the recesses with the same oil colours as before. At this stage the windshield received the transparent part for the glass which was then dusted with the help of the mask included in Eduard's set reproducing where the wipers had cleaned the windscreen (photos 20). The rearview mirror was reproduced with silver foil and a pair of pliers (photo 21). I then lightly dry-brushed the model with oil paint to highlight the details and give further depth to the model. The bodywork had a few scratches and I applied these with a sponge using oil paint (photo 22). Finally, I did some research on the Internet and found a database of registration numbers used by the Waffen SS and German army in Normandy. I then raided my spares box to come up with a

suitable registration number.

Setting the Scene

From the start of this project my idea was to make a small diorama set in the Bocage during the Battle for Normandy. I saw a lot of photos in books and on the Web and I soon came up with suitable inspiration. A Warriors' set of figures provided all the necessary human elements. I began to make the base from a cheap Ikea picture frame and glued a square of polystyrene where the groundwork would be placed. While the base dried, I started to make the Bocage itself with natural bits and pieces which I had collected in the woods. I reproduced the some of the foliage with commercial products and I glued them in place with spray glue. I repeated these steps three or four times (photo 23).

For the trees I used the teloxys aristata or 'Sea Foam', and I used the same steps as above. Once everything was dry, I decided to paint it they with some various shades of green tone using the airbrush. It's always important to paint the groundwork, even when using the most natural of products. When the vegetation was ready I began to make the groundwork with sand, polyfilla, water and white glue. I put the mixture on base with a small spoon. After an hour, with the terrain still wet, I added the vegetation and the trees (photo 24). Then I sprinkled some sand on the terrain for a more realistic texture. While this was still wet I impressed the tread from a spare 1/35scale Kübelwagen tyre.



I wanted to add something to complete the scene and add a sense of danger and I decided for part of an airplane. I had an old kit of a Fw190 in 1/32 scale, so I used its tail. I had recently read an interesting book on the Fw190 in the 'Pilots and Planes' series from Histoire and Collection. It was full of colour profiles which proved very useful and I painted the tail in the classic Luftwaffe scheme of RLM 74/75/76. I began the painting with a base coat with primer, then I preshaded all of the surfaces surfaces. Then, using Gunze Sangyo's paints, I sprayed the RLM76 on the lower and lateral surfaces and RLM74/75 on the upper surfaces (photo 25). When the tail was dry, I sprayed a layer of Future to obtain a gloss surfaces and applied the decals. After a further wait of a

few hours I used Cassel Earth oil paint to wash the panel lines to make the tail 'pop' (photo 26). A layer of Vallejo Matt Varnish completed the aircraft part of the diorama and I attached it to the groundwork with white glue.

Conclusion

During the summer of 2004 I visited the France and Normandy. This was a incredible experience and it was then I decided to build a diorama of the Normandy campaign. It has taken me a decade or so to realize my ambition, but I'm delighted by a diorama which, I hope, captures something of the desperation of the Normandy fighting. My special thanks are due to my friend Alberto who painted the Kübelwagen's crew.





Availability

Tamiya 1/35 Kübelwagen Type 82 (ref. 35213) is available from all good model shops.









The Final Post Funky Wagon

Roman Volchenkov opens the box on Bronco Models' Horch Radio Car

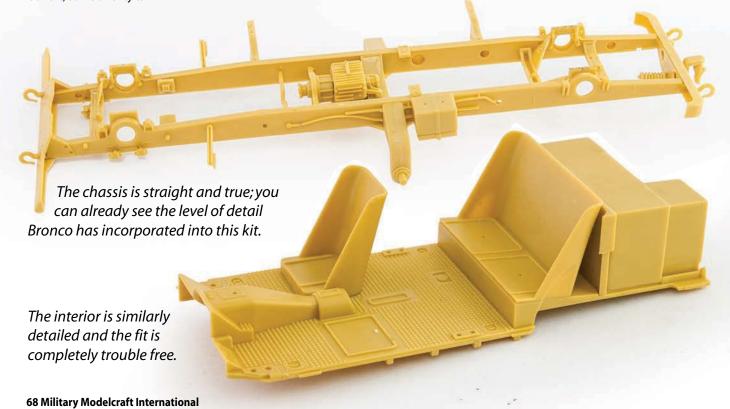
he Horch 901 (the base for both the Whermacht's Kfz 12 and Kfz 15 car) was produced between 1937 and 1943 in Zwickau with approximately 16,000 vehicles made. It was used by the German army as a medium offroad passenger car, yet it was not very popular among the troops. Nevertheless, it saw service throughout the War, from the Eastern Front to North Africa and, of course, as such it's an attractive subject for modelling in 1/35 scale. Italeri made a kit of Kfz 15 Horch in 1980 and this was reboxed by Tamiya two years ago. Compared to the new offering from Bronco Models these kits are so outdated that it makes no sense to me why would one buy one now. Bronco has produced both the Kfz 12 (passenger car) and the Kfz 15 (radio car). The latter one is a subject of this short review and a full article will appear in a future issue of MMI.

The German Horch Fu.Kw. Kfz.15 Radio Car (ref. CB35182) comes in a standard Bronco cardboard box and features a poster depicting the attractive box art, some twenty tancoloured plastic sprues, a clear sprue, two photoetched frets and decals for two marking options. The assembly manual has 23 pages (including paint directions) and judging by that number of steps and by the sheer number of sprues for so small a vehicle you can already guess that the guys at Bronco have built in plenty of detail into a small kit. The chassis frame is super detailed, as is the 3.5 litre engine. One might add some wiring to the engine room but it is not really necessary as the space looks busy already. The tyres are made of separate parts and although they do not have weighted feel they are nicely detailed and can be used out of the box. The upper body has plenty of details both inside and outside. All the various levers, tools, clasps and handles are present in the kit. The rear storage compartment (the 'boot' I guess you call it) has shelves and boxes in case you choose to depict it open. The tarp is provided in two variants: one fully expanded and the other folded. For the first variant a set of side windows is included as well.





As ever, Bronco's kits are attractively packaged with great box art and CAD drawings of the kit parts.



The Final Post Funky Wagon

likes of

Archer, it

shouldn't

Roman Volchenkov opens the box on Bronco Models' Horch Radio Car

Unique to this version, the radio car parts include transmitters, radio unit, antenna base and headphones. The only thing missing is wiring. It would have been helpful for Bronco to have provided some guidance for that, but with a little bit of searching I was able to find the information online. The front shield (windshield) can be also made folded in canvas or installed vertically. Here I appreciate Bronco producing the windshield as a single clear part. Although it requires some masking for painting it is better than installing the separate windows into the frame as

many other kits do. No glue marks in the corners!

As you can see from the images the detail is sharp and it looks very impressive. The kit opens up a wealth of modeling possibilities, depicting wrecked, repaired or abandoned vehicles, as it looks like every tiny detail of the suspension is captured. So far the only omission I discovered is the absence of small lever that connects the steering wheel shaft to the steering push rod, but it is only absent from the manual, not from sprues! If I had one minor gripe it would be the inclusion of only two marking options.

However, as most of us have an overflowing spares box of decals, not to mention Aftermarket options from the detract from what is a superb kit. As I said, I'll be bringing you a full build article of this little gem soon. Bronco Models are available from all good model shops and our thanks

to Rubin for the review sample.

The 3.51
eight-cylinder
petrol engine is
beautifully reproduced in
the Bronco kit.



The suspension and chassis complete and the Kfz. 15 begins to take shape. It's not an easy build, but if you've built other Bronco kits you won't be disappointed by this one.



A beautifully restored Horch Kfz. 15 seen at the War and Peace show at Beltring (source: www.wikipedia.org).



A Kfz. 15 in pre-War Whermacht service (source: www.wikipedia.org).

Words & Pictures

A round up of the latest military titles

Title: Büssing Schwere Pz.Spähwagen Part 1

(Nuts & Bolts 35)

Author: Holger Edrmann
Publisher: Nuts & Bolts
Price: £25.15(pb)

he latest volume in the excellent Nuts & Bolts series covers two of the best-known AFVs used by the German army in World War II: the eight-

these vehicles (usefully detailing the different production changes in the five production series. We then move onto a section covering the organisation of the Whermacht's reconnaissance units, including potted histories of the various reconnaissance battalions in which the '231' and '232' served. There then follows a section on marking and camouflage, before ending with a very helpful and comprehensive guide to modelling the 'acht-rad' in Small-Scale and 1/35 scale.

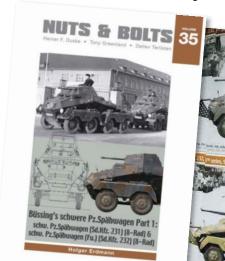
The meat of the book is to be found in the

throughout the War and on all fronts. This section is organized chronologically and by theatre of war and is undoubtedly the ultimate photo reference to these two important vehicles. This is followed by eighteen pages of scale plans in 1/35, showing all the production variants of both vehicles, and fourteen colour plates, all meticulously matched to archival images in the preceding section. The book then has an exhaustive walkaround of one of only two surviving '231s' in Koblenz (the other being in the Ahmednagar Tank Museum in India). The book concludes with two excellent builds of AFV Club's Sd.Kfz. 231 and 232 by Tony

Greenland and Vinnie Brannigan. As ever with the team from Nuts & Bolts, the production standards are first rate and the research underpinning the book excellent. It's highly recommended to all students of the German armed forces in World War II and is an essential companion to anyone contemplating building one of these vehicles in miniature. It's available in the UK from Historex Agents

(www.historexagents.com).

David Grummitt



wheeled armoured cars the Sd.Kfz. 231 and Sd.Kfz. 232. The book is organized in the way familiar way, the opening section detailing the development and production of

archival photos, many of them previously unpublished. This is a superb resource, showing the 'acht-rad' in action

Title: Camouflage and Markings of the 6th South African

Armored Division North Africa & Italy 1943-45: Part 2 Wheeled Transport and Artillery (Armour Colour Gallery 9)

Author: William Marshall

Publisher: Model Centrum Progres

Publisher: Model Centrum Progre **ISBN:** 978-8-36067-2-181

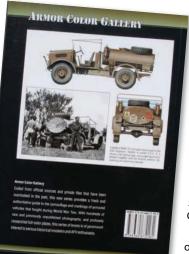
Price: €19(pb)

ot a new book (first published in 2012) or series, but not one we've covered before in these pages, but it was a pleasant surprise when our friends at IBG Models sent us through some sample copies for review. The first volume (Armor Gallery 6), which is sadly now out of the print, covered the AFVs of the South African Armored Division in North Africa and Italy, so this volume on the soft-skinned vehicles is very welcome indeed. Its 72 pages cover the various units within the division, motorised infantry, artillery, engineers, technical and medical services, as well as logistics. It then covers paint and camouflage colours before moving onto tactical markings. It closes with appendices showing unit

organisation and a set of excellent colour plates. The range of vehicles covered is very wide, including the Chevrolet C15A (Fitted FFW/ for Wireless), Mack NM6 6-ton gun tractor, CMP Ford F30 30ambulance, Dodge D15 15-cwt GS, Bedford MWC 200-gallon water tanker, Dodge D15 water tanker, Ford F60L 3-ton GS, Ford WO2A heavy utility staff car,

Canadian 1941 Ford 11A Staff car,

Ford C11ADF Woody, 1938 Ford 81A Staff Car, Ford 01Y 1-ton Panel truck, Ford F60-2L CMP ambulance, Austin K2/Y ambulance, Dodge T-110L-5 3-ton GS, British Fordson Sussex 6x4 truck, Chevrolet 1500-series 3-ton Canteen vehicle, Dodge D15 15-cwt GS, CMP Chevrolet C15 4x2 GS, Chevrolet C60L, Bedford QLD office truck, British Ford WOT2A 15-cwt GS, Canadian



Dodge T212 8-cwt GS, Dodge WC-52, Bedford MWD, AEC Matador Heavy Tractor, Morris C9/B SP Bofors, Guy Quad-Ant gun tractor, Chevrolet FAT-2 gun tractor, Morris Mk. III Field Artillery Tractor, Scammell Pioneer SV/2S breakdown tractor, Scammell TRMU-30 Tank Transporter, Diamond T 980 and 981, Mack LMSW 6x4 breakdown, as well as A/T, A/A, Field and Heavy artillery pieces: 40 mm Bofors A/A, 3.7-in A/A, 5.5-inch Howitzer, 25-pdr Field Gun, and 6-pdr A/T – quite a list!

The book is stuffed with 127 original photos from both North Africa and Italy alongside some informative captions. Overall this

is a fantastic resource for both modellers and softskin enthusiasts alike. It's available from good military booksellers and check out the publisher's website

(www.modelbooks.republika.pl) for more details.

David Grummitt

Title: Panzer Colours of the III Reich

(Spotlight Series)

Author: Thierry Vallet

Publisher: Mushroom Model Publications

ISBN: 978-8-36367-8-739

Price: £19(pb)

ne of the attractions of building German Armour is the fact that it was camouflaged to suite its operational use rather than the 'one colour suits all' adopted by the Allies on most of their vehicles. The period covered by this book is 1918 until 1945 and from the very beginning the paint shops was kept busy. For instance, the profile of an A7V Sturmpanzerwagen shows the vehicle to have been covered in large patches of Rostbraun, Ochergelb, Grun and Fieldgrau. And just to give the workshop a little more to do, each patch was outlined in black. The outlining of the patches seem to have been

abandoned after that. The next profile is of a the Krupp 'Grosstraktor' from 1935. After that the machines are more familiar with four PzKpfw Is. One of these, an Aust B was smeared with mud, to reduce visibility, a tactic also used by some Sherman crews. The book contains just one more 'bruiser

before we get to the more

familiar vehicles of World War II and that is Neubaufahrzeug that saw service in Norway in April 1940. From then on most armour modeller will recognize the vehicles depicted

Panzer Colours of the III Reich
THIERRY VALLET

in the forty-one superb colour profiles, each one identified by unit and location. Although some machines were in RAL 7028, others had a more marginal scheme. Two of these were described as 'ambush camouflage' and the 'dot' scheme, but if you want a scheme that stands out, then how about a captured Sherman M4A2 in US Olive Drab, RAL 7028 and RAL 8017. Each profile, of course, shows only one side and it is a matter of conjecture whether the scheme was repeated on other aspects of the tank. There is one good thing, you will not have the extra expense of paint masks, just a paint

brush, a steady hand and ideally an airbrush!

Ernie Lee

Title: T-34-85 Camouflage &

Markings 1944-1945 **Author:** Przemystaw Skulski with

colour profiles by
Thierry Vallet

Publisher: Mushroom Model Publications

ISBN: 978-8-36367-8-861

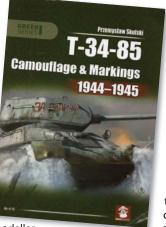
Price: £20(pb)

here cannot be many military enthusiasts who are not familiar with the famous T-34 battle tank. When it became obvious that the early version, armed with a 76mm gun was not capable of piercing the armour of the Panther and Tiger tanks, they decided to re-arm it with a modified version of the 85mm anti-aircraft gun. The first section is devoted to colour profiles with accompanying photographs. The majority of T 34's were, of

course, painted the official Red Army paint colour, 4BO Green (a shade of olive green), but were exceptions and you will find some of these among the profiles. Also noticeable are the highly visible white lettering that adorned the turrets and hulls of many machines.

This will not help the modeller

who wishes to deviate from the kit decals as the size and variation of these letters mean



very specialist after-markets decals. This section is not just devoted to tanks in Soviet service. You will find examples used by Czechoslovakia, Finland, Yugoslavia and even machines captured by the Germans. We then come to the last and very important chapter, entitled 'Version Details'. Most, but not all of the photographs are of turret variations, thirty-nine pages in all. Add to that two pages of tactical markings and you have an excellent addition to the Mushroom Military range, on top of that I am sure you will be looking more closely at the kit box in future to find exactly which machine it

represents.

Ernie Lee

Title: Magach 7 IDF Patton M60: Magach 7 & 7 Gimel in IDF

Service – Part 1 (IDF Armor

Series 14)

Author: Michael Mass and

Adam O'Brien

Publisher: Desert Eagle Publishing **ISBN:** 978-9-65770-0-006

Price: £22.99(pb)

he Magach 7 and 7C, or 'Battering Ram' in Hebrew, are the most heavily converted US M60 tanks in the IDF inventory. This is the sixth set of upgrades applied to the venerable M60 MBT since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. This involves new and more effective ERA tiles, a new turret control and gun stabilisation system, alongside a 21st-century Fire Control Centre. The Magach 7 and 7C has seen action in recent conflicts in the West Bank and serves in both regular and reserve army units. The

book contains more than 225 photos of the Magach 7 in its 84 pages and is produced to the same high standards by the acclaimed Desert Eagle Publishing team. The book begins with a short introduction to the history of the Magach in IDF service before launching into some terrific

shots of the Magach in combat during operations on the West Bank during the Second Intifada in 2000 and 2002. We then move on to a study of the 'Man and Machine', showing various IDF personnel interacting with



their tanks, before a long 'In Detail' section offering walkaround of Magach 7 and the Nochri mine roller. There are then shorter photo sections on refuelling the tank, the interior and the tactical markings. Both the author (Mass) and the editor/designer (O'Brien) modelllers and this shows in their eye for the kind of details and weathering images that appeal to modellers. This is one of the best armour series in publications and an absolute must-have for all IDF armour modellers and enthusiasts. It's available in the UK from Wendy at the Aviation Book Centre

(www.aviationbookcentre.com) who kindly supplied the review copy.

David Grummitt

Words & Pictures

A round up of the latest military titles

Title: Armour, Camouflage &

Markings of the French 2nd Armored Division in World War

Two (Armour Color Gallery 8)

Author: Claude Gillono

Publisher: Model Centrum Progres ISBN: 978-8-36067-2-167

Price: €19(pb)

nother slightly off-beat title from the excellent Armour Color Gallery series, this one covers the 2nd French Armored Division as it served in Northwest Europe in 1944-45. The mixture of authoritative text and well-captioned photo is a winning combination and 64 pages contain 112 archival photos, five organisational tables, two pages explaining the division's complicated system of tactical

ARMOR CAMOUFLAGE & MARKINGS French 🔲 2nd Armored Division in World War Two Claude Gillon

markings and 20 beautiful colour profiles. A wide variety of AFVs are featured, including Armored Jeeps, M8 Armored Cars, M20 Utility Cars, halftracks, M3 & M5 Light Tanks, the M8 HMC, M4 medium tanks, the M7 HMC, the M10 GMC, and the M31/M32 Tank Recovery Vehicle. Again, very highly recommended.

David Grummitt

UNIFIL FINFUL 1978/2011: Title:

> Tanks and Maintenance of Peace in Southern Lebanon

from 1978 to 2011

Author: Thomas Seignon

Publisher: Caratère Presse & Editions

ISBN: 978-2-91640-3-083

Price: £28.00(pb)

nother new publisher to these pages, Caratère Presse & Editions have made an impressive debut This dual-language book, written by the former head of the UNIFIL liaison office from 2010 until 2011, covers the history of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. This was originally created by the United Nations, with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 425 and 426 on 19 March 1978, to confirm Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon which Israel had invaded five days prior, restore international peace and security, and help the Government of Lebanon restore its effective authority in the area. The author had an interest in the military equipment to be found there and an opportunity to photograph it. The array of countries that served meant a fascinating variety of vehicles operated in the region. All the book's text and the picture captions are repeated in both French and English.

This is more than just a book of military vehicles painted white. It begins with an introduction and background to the situation, the history and the deployment of the UN force, and an overview of the armed forces employed there and the vehicles they deployed. These included China, Finland, France (with a varied vehicle selection), Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Slovenia, Malaysia and Turkey. The book also considers the vehicles of the Lebanese

Army and IDF. Some of the APCs features include the BTR-80, the VBL, VBCI, RG-32, the Chinese WZ551, which also includes the ARV version, the Spanish BMR 600, a Nigerian Fox CVR(W), and the Nepalese deployment of the South African Casspir patrol vehicle. Heavier AFVs featured include the French Leclerc, along with the Lebanese Army M48, while Israeli sec-



tion includes various marks of Merkava, t h e Namer, Puma, Nagmachon and Achzarit AFVs. The book's 112 pages are fairly packed full of images as you can

imagine from this description

of its content and it's highly recommended to fans of modern armour and conflict. It's available in the UK from Wendy at the Aviation Book Centre (www.aviationbookcentre.com) who kindly supplied the review copy.

David Grummitt

Title: FC Modeltips Volume 1 Author: Federico Collada Publisher: Federico Collada ISBN: 978-8-46082-8-877 **Price:** €25.99(pb)

egular readers of MMI will no doubt recognise the name of Federico Collada,

who has regularly contributed articles to

magazine 120 pages More than 30 very easy tips as and tricks

over the past few years. This book, in collaboration with Vallejo acrylics, distils some thirty 'top tips', mainly, but not exclusively, around paint-



techniques that will be new to many modellers such as using printed photographs of real planks applied to decal paper to replicate the wooden cargo bed of a truck – and some very useful and sensible ones - the use of a hairdryer to impart sag to vinyl tracks or how to add texture to MiniArt's vac-formed diorama bases. All the features are very clearly laid out with some great step-by-step photography. The models themselves are not too bad either!

> I have one small niggle, it's that the book would have benefitted from an English editor or proof reader at the least as some of the technical terms are a little obscure. None of that, however, should detract from a great little volume which is bound to find a place on many modellers' shelves. I look forward to the second volume. See for the FC Modeltips website for further details and ordering information (www.fcmodeltips.com, where you can also find details of some fantastic free decal downloads).





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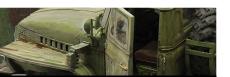
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